

ML  
JOHN H. LATTA  
8238 EAST ANGUS DRIVE  
SCOTTSDALE, ARIZ. 85257

August 9, 1966

Harold Weisberg,  
Hyattstown, Maryland

Dear Mr Weisberg:

I have appreciated your calm analysis of the evidence without indulgence in theories and hypotheses not directly indicated by the known facts. The temptation to do otherwise must have been very great indeed but your avoidance of this literary trap must lend greater credibility to your efforts in the days ahead.

It will be a long time - if ever - for sufficient evidence to accumulate to firmly fix the guilt, but the higher we go with our early hypotheses, the more pressure there must be for those in high places to clear their own skirts. If such hypotheses can be made sufficiently plausible and in accordance with established facts, the chance for "leaks" from those in possession of inside facts must greatly increase.

To justify this course there must, of course, be strong initial evidence to support the hypothesis and, in this case, I believe there is. It is hardly conceivable that the Warren Commission could possibly have acted as it did unless it was under powerful pressure to do so. Neither can I believe that any Congressional inquiry would have been any better as it would have depended on men of lesser stature and known integrity subjected to exactly the same pressures. Only history can write the final verdict using such evidence as is already known plus future revelations which can be authenticated. To some extent current hypotheses involving highly placed persons may assist the historical process by encouraging the "accused" to earlier disclosures of their own knowledge of events. Thus they do have a serious purpose other than merely keeping public interest alive.

In reply to the specific questions you raise as to my summation:

It appears obvious from your analysis that Oswald (or his double) was faking his connection with the Castro Cubans and was more nearly aligned with the Exile faction if at all. It was also the Exile faction which Kennedy might have been considered to have "betrayed" and it was against Kennedy that their animus must have been directed. It does seem to me there is quite a distinct possibility of a merger between the interests of the Exiles and much wider interests of high authority within the government. My distinction was merely that I did not consider the Exiles unassisted could have exercised sufficient influence on the Warren Commission and it is really the "top source" of the political pressures with which we and the nation are concerned. The Exile faction could at best have been no more than a tool of the higher conspirators.

This leads us straight to the "military cabal" theory of the Minority of One and that is getting very close indeed to my own hypothesis. All I do in fact is add other possibilities than merely military ones. The component individuals and groups involved may very well be identical.

It was not my purpose to offer a complete identification of those interests who would have wanted Kennedy disposed of, but only to those major centers of interest so completely correlated and integrated that they could cooperatively have engineered the assassination and covered their tracks thereafter. Except for the

accident of the Zapruder film which they could not have anticipated, there would have been very little for the skeptics to go on. The attempts to reconcile the facts to the Zapruder film is really the point at which suspicion of the Commission's integrity of purpose first comes into full focus.

There is no evidence of any integrated directional force which could have correlated and controlled the efforts of the numerous right wing fanatics who might have wished to accomplish the assassination. Without the Warren Commission's suspicious actions, we might have concluded the blame did lie solely with just such fanatical fringe groups - as the Commission would wish us to believe. But it is the Commission's own revealed actions which force us now to believe otherwise.

Perhaps members of the Commission were unaware of much of the detailed evidence accumulated by its staff, BUT:

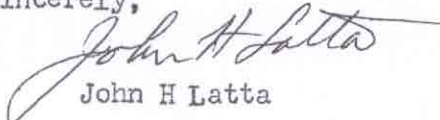
- (1) They were directly responsible for the selection of the staff members;
- (2) Refusal to permit antagonist proceedings precluded them becoming informed of evidence the staff members wished to conceal from them.

Is it conceivable that such eminent persons associated with the law did not realize the enormous possibilities for the concealment of evidence which their own actions established? Did not Mark Lane or others call these possibilities directly to the Commission's attention only to have it ignored?

The mere fact that such enormous possibility for concealment was established by the Commission itself suggests either conspiracy to which the Commission itself was party OR the hand-picked Staff was assured that its duplicity in its choice of evidence presented to the Commission would remain undiscovered.

No matter how you slice it, the Commission's verdict still stinks.

Sincerely,

  
John H Latta

Please, no reply! This is not to add to your correspondence burdens which I know must be heavy indeed. When the dust has settled a bit more, perhaps you can write another book in which you will give some slight consideration as to who the conspirators might have been.

JHL